

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Thomas Solley Farm Survey Number: AA-AN-982

Project: Tanyard Springs Subdivision Agency: COE

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no     yes Name                      Date                     

Eligibility recommended            Eligibility ~~not~~ recommended X

Criteria:    A    B    C    D Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G    None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Thomas Solley Farm, consisting of 104 acres, a mid-19th-century farmhouse, corn crib, barn, horse stable and cemetery, is situated between Marley Neck Road and Solley Road in northeastern Anne Arundel County. Though one of the last remaining mid-19th century farm complexes in this portion of the county, the property no longer retains the integrity necessary to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Solley farmhouse may have been built in the 1840s by Thomas Solley and later expanded to its present form in the late 19th century by his son, George H. Solley. The property supported the cultivation of fruit trees, primarily peach orchards, during the 19th and into the 20th century. The property remained in the Solley family until the 1950s.

The main residence on the property is a two-story frame T-house covered with a cross-gable roof. The house rests on a brick foundation, has weatherboard siding and asphalt shingles on the roof. Brick nogging is found in the walls throughout the house. The house is vernacular, with architectural detailing limited to the raking cornice which is decorated with a scalloped barge board. The house has been vacant for years and stands in deteriorated condition. Many of the original 6/6 windows are missing and weatherboard siding is pulling off in places. The current status of the above-noted secondary resources is not known.

According to the Anne Arundel County survey, this is one of only six T houses in the county and, at the time of the survey, provided a good example of its form. Since then, however, the condition of the house has deteriorated severely and no longer conveys its significance. The property no longer retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association. The property is, therefore, not eligible for listing under Criterion C. The property is not associated with persons or events significant to our past and is thus not eligible under Criteria A or B.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Copy of MHT Inventory Form in Inventory Notebooks; original in possession of Anne Arundel County.

Prepared by: Donna Ware, Historic Sites Planner, Anne Arundel County

Kimberly Prothro Williams July 21, 1997  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes     no     not applicable  
Peter R. Kuntz 7/21/97  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*Donna*

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**I. Geographic Region:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/> Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input type="checkbox"/> Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Period ( <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adaptation

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey No. AA-982

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)historic Thomas Solley Farmand/or common Thomas Solley Farm**2. Location**street & number Marley Neck Road (750 ft. east of Marley Neck Road and approx. 2 miles N. of Rt. 648)    not for publicationcity, town Glen Burnie   X   vicinity of congressional districtstate MD county Anne Arundel**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  X  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  X  </u> building(s)	<u>  X  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  X  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  X  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  X  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)name Jane Pumphrey Nes (c/o Charles L. Pumphrey & Co., Inc.)street & number 702 Keyser Building  
207 E. Redwood Street telephone no.: 685-7104city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21202**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse 11iber WCL #2661street & number Church Circle folio 861city, town Annapolis state MD**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**title nonedate    federal    state    county    localdepository for survey records   city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-982

**Condition**☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☒ unaltered☐ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See attached.

**8. Significance**

Survey No. AA-982

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attached.

**AA-982****#7 DESCRIPTION**

The Thomas Solley Farm, consisting of approximately 104 acres, is situated between Marley Neck Road (on the west) and Solley Road (on the east) in northeastern Anne Arundel County. The mid-19th century farmhouse, corn crib, barn, horse stable and cemetery is one of the last remaining mid-19th century farm complexes in this portion of the county.

The farmhouse is a frame two-story Victorian Vernacular dwelling based on a cross-wing plan. The house rests on a brick foundation, has weatherboard siding and a cross-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The cross wings are of equal size and are set perpendicular to each other; one running east-west, the other north-south. The north-south wing extends south from the centerpoint of the east-west wing. The Solley farmhouse may have been built in the 1840s and expanded to its present form in the late 19th century. However, since the interior was not examined, this theory can not be substantiated. The 1845 U. S. Coast & Geodetic Map shows a dwelling in the same location as the present house.

The house faces west toward Marley Neck Road and Marley Creek beyond. The principle entrance to the dwelling is located on the west elevation in the north-south wing. This elevation consists of three bays on both floors with the door located in the northernmost bay of the first floor. The entrance consists of a paneled wood door surmounted by a four-pane transom. The three bays of the first floor are covered with a hip-roof porch supported by simple wood posts. The same porch arrangement is seen on the rear (east) elevation. The front (west) gable-end of the east-west wing consists of two bays on both floors; while the rear elevation of the same wing is pierced with a single opening at the first and second floors. The rear doorway is situated directly across from the front entrance, creating a central passage for the interior room arrangement.

Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the gable roof ridge line of the north-south wing; one at the south end and the other at the north. All windows are 6/6 double hung sash windows with fixed-louvered wooden shutters. Each gable of the house is pierced with a pair of small rectangular windows or vents at the attic level. The only exterior ornamentation is confined to scalloped wooden vergeboards or bargeboards on every elevation including the porches.

A bulkhead entrance to a partial cellar is located on the south elevation. A small gable-roof hood supported by four posts covers the entrance. A circa 1900 photograph (from the collection of Mrs. Charles G. Solley) shows a small shed roof porch covering the cellar entrance.

The interior of the house was not examined. Probate records file in 1958 for the estate of Charles L. Pumphrey describe the house as having six rooms and one bath. It can therefore be surmised that there are three principle rooms on each floor.

AN-982

A 12 stall horse stable, corn crib and barn are located southeast and east of the house. The Solley family cemetery is located further to the east. The remains of a small oval horse track is visible east of the cemetery.

## **#8 SIGNIFICANCE**

The Thomas Solley farm, consisting of a mid-19th century farmhouse, corn crib, barn, horse stable, and cemetery, is one of few surviving mid-19th century farm complexes in northeastern Anne Arundel County. It lies on approximately 104 acres of flat, sandy land which supported the cultivation of fruit trees, primarily peach orchards, during the 19th century and into the 20th century.

The farmhouse is a good example of a Vernacular dwelling which utilizes the cross-wing plan. This type of house is not the usual central-passage plan, Vernacular "I-house" found in great numbers throughout the country. The cross-wing plan is a variant that developed in the mid- to late-19th century of which there are less than six examples that survive in Anne Arundel County.

The Solley Farm was owned by the Solley family during much of the 19th century and into the 20th century. During the 18th century, much of the property on Marley Neck between Marley and Stony Creeks was owned by the Jacobs family who lived at Chestnut Hill Farm (east of Solley Road and north of Nabbs Creek). Zachariah Jacobs operated a tanyard on Marley Creek in the late 18th century; hence the name of Tanyard Cove.

By the 1830s, a small hamlet had developed in the vicinity inhabited by the Jacobs, Williams, Robinson, Pumphrey, and Solley families. A school and a Methodist Church were established in the 1830s on Marley Neck Road. The area later became known as Solley when a post office was established in 1898.

The Solley farmhouse may have been built in the 1840s by Thomas Solley and later expanded to its present form in the late 19th century by his son, George H. Solley. However, since the interior of the house was not examined, the evolution of the structure is unknown. The 1845 U. S. Coast & Geodetic Map shows a dwelling in the same location as the present house. The Solley farm is also noted on the 1860 Martenet Map of Anne Arundel County and the 1878 Hopkins' Atlas of Anne Arundel County. George H. Solley is shown as the occupant in 1878 with the ownership held by the Thomas Solley heirs. George was the son of Thomas and Sarah Solley. At his father's death in 1875, George, a bachelor, continued to live at the Solley farm with his mother until his death in 1914. His mother, Sarah, pre-deceased him in 1904. The property remained in the Solley family and their descendants until the 1950s, when it was conveyed to Charles L. and Edna Pumphrey. The present owner, Jane Pumphrey Nes, is their daughter.

**AA-982****Thomas Solley Farm**

Addendum: During a site visit conducted in 1995, it was noted that the dwelling has brick nogging in its wall structure throughout the house. It appears that the brick nogging extends two-thirds of the way up the wall. The nogging was visible because the building has deteriorated significantly.



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Survey No. AA-982

Anne Arundel County Land Records and Equity Records

Maps: 1845 U. S. Coast &amp; Geodetic Survey Map; 1860 Martenet's Map of Anne Arundel County; and 1878 G. M. Hopkins' Atlas of Anne Arundel County.

Photograph Collection of Mrs. Charles G. Solley.

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of nominated property 104 acres +Quadrangle name Curtis BayQuadrangle scale 7.5 Minute

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Donna M. Wareorganization AA Co. Planning & Zoningdate 1986street & number Arundel Center

telephone

city or town Annapolisstate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
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